Nuggets of News

GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY — gold discovered 1860 — recording the past for the future

P.O. Box 26
Gold Hill, Ore. 97525
504 First Avenue

June, 1995

"Centennial Room" Display

The cover photo in this newsletter shows one of the current displays in our "Centennial Room". This display was so ably researched and set up by Clare Moore and Sharon Olson. Many thanks, ladies, for a job well done!

GOLD DUST DAY

This year's Gold Dust Day, sponsored by the Gold Hill Nugget Club, will be Saturday, June 10th. They have really put forth tremendous effort to make this a memorable, enjoyable day, so be sure to join us at the festivities if you can. Gold Hill Historical Society will once again have a booth for face painting and possibly helium balloons, and this year will add Centennial Medallion sales as well as sales of some of ...ut other gift shop items.

Activities will start with a Pancake Breakfast in the I.O.O.F Hall from 6:30 a.m. till 10:30 a.m. The 5 K and 10 K Run/Walk starts at 8:00 a.m., and the parade begins at 10:30 a.m. In addition to the pancake breakfast, there will be food booths open in the park throughout the day. Just a few of the many events include a Centennial Medallion raffle as well as many free raffles throughout the day, a pie eating contest, decorated bike contest, the 1st annual pre-1970 car show, bingo, dunk tank and pony rides. Entertainment includes live bands, Sacred Dreams, Tears of Time, Open Door, Old Time Fiddlers and others, plus D. J.'s Snyder Music Machine and KRWQ Music Machine with dancing by Rock n' Rodeo Dance Team and a Community Dance from 4:00 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. It should be a wonderful celebration.

GOLD HILL SCHOOL REUNION

Reminder to all alumni of Gold Hill School -- your reunion this year is being held June 24th and 25th. Be sure to attend, meet your friends and visit. On Saturday registration begins at 1:00 p.m. at the Gold Hill Grange (6th Ave. & 4th St.), banquet at 6:00 p.m. (reservations by June 10th - telephone (503) 772-6688 or (503) 535-1493 for further information) and dancing at the I.O.O.F. Hall 9:00 p.m. to midnight. On Sunday a potluck picnic will start at 12:00 noon at Valley of the Rogue Park, Space F, located at the far west end of the camping area in the meeting hall.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY POTLUCK

While we're talking about potlucks, remember our historical society potluck will be coming up in August. Notification will be sent when the date is confirmed, but we hope all who are able will join us. We had such fun and such a wonderful turnout last year.

ARCHIBALD & POLLYANN MORRIS

The following history of Archibald and Pollyann Morris was sent to us by fellow member , Martha M. Joseph. You may recall we asked for help tracing any of her descendants in the March, 1995 *Nuggets of News*. This story is reprinted with her permission.

Archibald Morris was born May 12, 1806 in Tennessee. After moving to Greene County, Missouri, he married his third wife, Pollyann Whittenberg, on October 11, 1925. Pollyann was born January 2, 1817 in Chuckey, Greene County, Tennessee to Peter and Mary "Polly" (Earnest) Whittenberg.

Pollyann passed her early childhood in a little village near Greenville, Tennessee. She joined the Methodist church at the age of eleven and was all her life a devoted Christian. When 16 years of age she moved with her parents to Missouri where she met and married Archibald at age 19.

Archibald and Pollyann Morris left Missouri in May, 1877 (her obituary states they came the second year in 1878) headed for Jackson County, Oregon. He was 71 years old and she was 60 years old. They were accompanied by many of their grown children and grandchildren. Some followed them to Oregon the next year. Altogether Archibald, Pollyann, and eight of their children, along with their families, left Missouri to come to Oregon.

The following story was written by one of Archibald's grandsons who came to Jackson County from Missouri with the Morris family.

"Joseph Willis Morris - Born on a small farm in Cedar County, Missouri, November 25, 1871. Train consisted of 70 wagons. Father (William Marion) having 3 wagons and mule teams. All wagons were equipped with either 2 mule power, or 2 horse power. Arrived at Rock Point, Jackson County, Oregon on September 14, 1877.

Hank Smith was Captain of the train. Made the entire trip without any trouble with the Indians, though seen hundreds of them.

One death during the trip. A child of Captain Smith. Train stopped only long enough to bury the child on the plains, then moved on. After the funeral, all wagons were driven over the grave, so Indians could not locate and dig up the body, which was their habit at that time. Provisions were at a premium at times during the trip. Some times each one was allowed only one biscuit for meal, and biscuits was the entire menu. At other times we would feast on jack rabbits and sage hens. Cooked over a sage brush fire. Buffalo chips were a thing of the past at that time.

Some days we would travel 14 to 16 hours to get water and feed for stock. Father was the official spokesman with the Indians, as he had learned the sign language to some extent, and all pow-wows was carried on with them in sign language.

Once in Wyoming we met a small band of Indians, and father had a long talk with their spokesman (they always had one certain buck to do the talking) and after a long conversation in the sign language as to how far to water and feed, the old buck spoke out in good broken English. Said he wanted to know what dad knew of the sign language.

When we were in Warner Valley, Lake County, Oregon we were real short of provisions. There was plenty of cattle but no one would sell us beef. But they told us of one of their desert camps, the present Rock Creek ranch in Catlow Valley, Lake County, where there was a barrel of corned beef, and we were welcome to it.

When we came to the cabin, we found a sign on the door saying "key over the door". We took a good supply of beef, locked the cabin and traveled on to the next white settlement, and when we asked as to why the cabin was locked and a sign on the door telling where to find the key, the natives answered, "Indians can't read"."

This trip took four months. An old family story says that grandma rode in the wagon sitting in her rocking chair all the way from Missouri to Oregon. This must have been Pollyann Morris.

Later, in the 1880's Archibald and seven of his descendants moved their households to Lake County. These were daughter, Mary, sons, George, Lilburn,

THE GOLD HILL CENTENNIAL MEDALLION CELEBRATING GOLD HILL'S 100 YEARS

The word "GOLD" strikes fire in the hearts of men and helped create the settlement of the west. In 1853 gold was discovered in Southern Oregon, developed into a stampede by the 1860's and was a frantic enterprise for 20 years. In 1884 Thomas Chavener donated land for the town, aptly named GOLD HILL, which was then incorporated in 1895. To celebrate this momentous occasion, a .999 pure silver Centennial Medallion was struck. Facsimile shown here and is available for sale thru the Gold Hill Historical Society. See order form below. The coin contains 3 pure gold nuggets from this area, 2 on the face and 1 in the gold pan on the reverse side. An initial lot of 1000 coins are being run.

SEND ORDER TO:
GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
504 1st Ave. PO Box 26
Gold Hill, OR 97525

Please send me ___ Silver
GOLD HILL CENTENNIAL MEDALLIONS
@ $25.00 each, no minimum order
Add $5.00 shipping & insurance.
This offer expires Dec. 31, 1995
Please make funds payable to
"GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY"
Allow 3 weeks for processing.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY,STATE,ZIP_____

_____

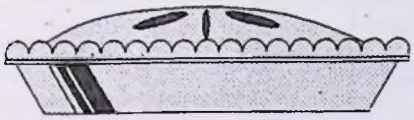
Total encl.____

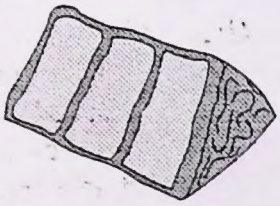
__Check ___Money order

To save shipping & insurance, you may purchase the medallion at the museum.

Sorry, we cannot process credit cards.

PHANTOM BAKE SALE





You are cordially invited to a Phantom Bake Sale

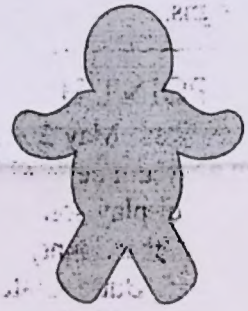
To be held on the afternoon of your busiest day

PLACE: *Home, Sweet, Home*

TIME: Any time that suits you!

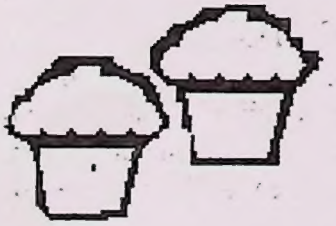
Here's our invitation.....You pay us for the priviledge of staying away from this bake sale...which we aren't going to give!

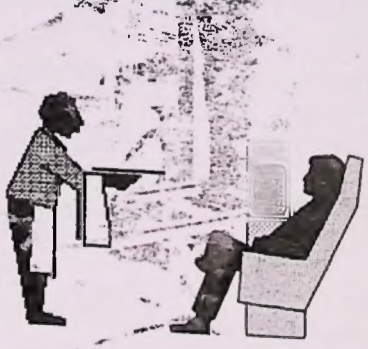
The most delightful party you'll ever attend....
You don't have to come, 'cause it's money you send
There'll be no cookies to bake...no pie to make,
No eggs, no sugar, no shortening to shake,
No tables to decorate, no dishes to wash,
No grief arranging for a place, by gosh!
No gas, no tires, no parking to give you a care,
You don't have to worry about what to wear...
And if you've some cookies that day on your shelf,
Don't bother to dress....Just eat them yourself!!



Please RSVP to: Gold Hill Historical Society
PO Box 26
Gold Hill OR 97525

By check to "Gold Hill Historical Society"...As the spirit moves you... No gift too large or too small... *Thank you!!*





Elbert, Charles, and grandsons, Andrew and John (whose father, William Marion Morris, stayed in Jackson County with the rest of his family).

At Archibald's death in 1886 he was 80 years old. He is buried in Lakeview at the I.O.O.F. cemetery. Pollyann was 81 years old when she died in 1898 and is buried at the Westside Cemetery about 15 miles from Lakeview.

At the end of 1991, there are 63 direct descendants of Archibald and Pollyann living in Lake County.

SIGNS

You'll notice our Historical Society Museum signs at each entrance to Gold Hill have a new look. Instead of the redwood darkening with age as we had hoped, it sun bleached in the year since they were hung, making the lettering difficult to read. Many thanks to Ted Wharton for brightening the lettering up and also thanks to Rex Parker for routing a "thanks" message on the back of each sign and for making new "centennial" signs.

EAGLE POINT HISTORY DAY

On Saturday, May 20th, we were invited to participate in a museum networking day with fourteen other museums, display some of our wares, and see what others had. Other county museums in attendance were Applegate, Big Butte, Crater Rock, Camp White, Eagle Point, Prospect, Shady Cove, Southern Oregon Button Club, Talent, Woodville, Jacksonville, Phoenix, Lake Creek, and Pacific Northwest Museum. Many ideas were shared and the entertainment was great!

Ted Wharton previewed our float for the Gold Dust Day parade, and we even brought back an autograph from Kevin Hagen (Little House's "Doc Baker"). We hope this can be an annual event. Be sure to watch for it next year and attend if at all possible. It was really an enjoyable, educational day.

LIBRARY REPORT

Gold Hill Librarian, Jeannette Blankenship attended our May meeting and gave us an update on the centennial essay contest. It got off to a slow start but interest was really picking up at that time. Prizes will be awarded during the Gold Dust Day celebration, June 10th. Essays and stories will then be included in a book which will become part of the Gold Hill Branch Library collection, with another copy in our Gold Hill Historical Society Museum library. Be sure to come in and look over the children's work.

Jeannette also advised us that the library is considering installing a community bulletin board. This sounds like a good idea to us - a much needed means of communication. Please lend your encouragement and support.

BAKE SALE

As a fund raiser, we're enclosing an announcement of our bake sale. We sincerely hope all of you will approve and participate. While county funds take care of our normal operating costs there are always so many other needs. All donations are appreciated!

CENTENNIAL MEDALLION

Centennial medallions are selling well. We plan to have them available at our Gold Dust Day booth so if you haven't purchased yours, this will be a good chance. We will continue to have them for sale in the museum for the remainder of this, Gold Hill's centennial year. Don't miss your chance to obtain this beautiful memento of our heritage.

THANK YOU

Again, thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who give so cheerfully of their time and expertise to keep our society and museum going. You are our life line - without you we would cease to exist.

MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the museum, located at 504 First Avenue. Please join us for an evening of fellowship, some say-so in how your society is run, and some great refreshments. Next meetings are:

Wednesday, June 21, 1995, 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday July 19, 1995, 7:00 P.M.
August Potluck/Board Meeting - to be announced
September 20, 1995, 7:00 P.M.

OFFICERS

President - Marge Martin -- 855-1559
Vice-President - Alyce Bottelson -- 855-1889
Secretary - Ted Wharton -- 773-4525
Treasurer - Donna Saddler -- 826-1756

MUSEUM HOURS

We're once again operating on "summer hours". The museum is open 10:00 A.M. till 4:00 P.M. Wednesday through Sunday until Labor Day. Be sure to visit and encourage your friends and acquaintances to do so also.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Have a wonderful, safe summer. Enjoy the holidays and all days!!

Gold Dust Day, Saturday, June 10, 1995
Flag Day, Wednesday, June 14, 1995
Father's Day, Sunday, June 18, 1995
Independence Day, Tuesday, July 4, 1995
Labor Day, Monday, September 4, 1995

Gold Hill Historical Society
P. O. Box 26
504 First Avenue
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525

MEDFORD, OR
PM
JUN 5
1995
975

Eagle Point Historical Society
PO Box 201
Eagle Point OR 97524

Board

Typ Parker / treasurer